

NOAA MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL BUOY DATA



Data from moored buoys and coastal stations on CD-ROM and online

Wind and wave information from the NOAA Marine Environmental Buoy Database are among the most frequently requested data from the archives maintained by the NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC). Now these data, and other marine parameters collected from moored buoys and C-MAN stations, are available in a set of seven interactive CD-ROMs

THE DATABASE

The National Oceanographic Data Center archives data collected by NOAA's National Buoy Data Center from moored buoys and C-MAN (Coastal-Marine Automated Network) stations located on piers, offshore towers, lighthouses, and beaches. Parameters reported by both buoys and C-MAN stations include air temperature and pressure, wind speed and direction, wind gust, and sea surface temperature. The buoys, and a few C-MAN off-shore tower stations, also report wave data - usually wave height, wave period and wave spectra. Since the late 1980's, some buoys have also reported directional wave spectra. The earliest moored buoy data in the archive is February 1970; C-MAN data began in 1985.

THE CD-ROM's

The recent release of interactive CD-ROM's contains all of the NOAA National Data Buoy Center buoy data archived at the NODC through December of 1997. These data are compressed, flat ASCII files, stored in monthly segments in the NODC F291 file format. The CD-ROM's are html compatible and, with an Internet browser, options exist for locating and viewing the data, and for gathering information on buoy locations, period of record, data availability, etc. Hyperlinks are also included for obtaining archived data stored since December 1997, and for real-time data access at the National Buoy Data Center. Access is not limited to use with an Internet browser,

however. Files may be easily located on the CD-ROM and downloaded directly to a PC or unix system. Detailed instructions and decompression software are included on each CD-ROM to support this option.

Data on the CD-ROMs are separated by ocean areas as follows:

Disc 1: Upper North Atlantic

Disc 2: Mid- and lower North Atlantic

Disc 3: Gulf of Mexico

Disc 4: Great Lakes

Disc 5: Lower Eastern and U.S Pacific Coast

Disc 6: Upper Eastern Pacific

Disc 7: Alaska, Hawaii and other Pacific buoys



NOAA BUOY DATA ONLINE

As part of its World Wide Web server, the NODC has created an interactive module that enables users with Internet access to browse detailed information

about the NOAA Marine Environmental Buoy Database, and to download more recent data not yet available on CD-ROM. A world map of buoy and C-MAN station locations provides users with a point-and-click interface to obtain information on the parameters and data periods for the NOAA moored buoys and C-MAN stations. The NOAA Marine Environmental Buoy Database is available through the NODC Online Access link on the NODC home page. Users may follow this link, then select the NOAA Marine Environmental Buoy Database. NODC's home page is located at <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov>. Real-time data access is available from NDBC at <http://seaboard.ndbc.noaa.gov>.



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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
National Oceanographic Data Center

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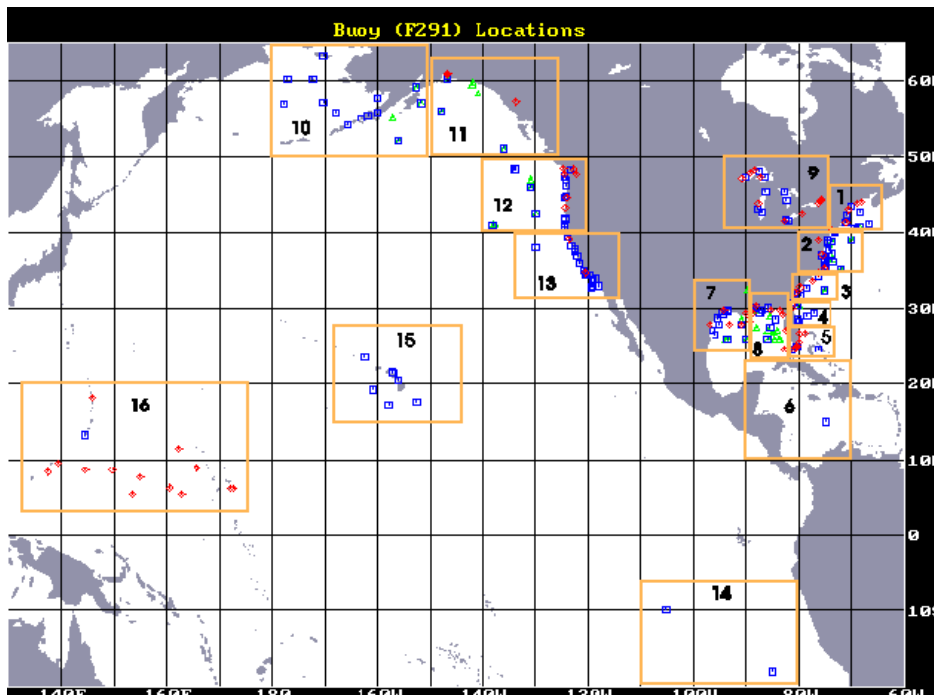
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